

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 01870 060949Z

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SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY POPULATION
AND FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 058729

SUMMARY: DESPITE RELATIVELY LOW LEVELS OF EXPENDITURE,
DUTCH DEVELOPMENT AID MINISTRY CONSIDERS POPULATION PROBLEMS
OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ONE OF ITS GREATEST PRIORITIES.
THEY ADVOCATE NOT ONLY THE CONTROL OF POPULATION GROWTH, BUT
EVEN POPULATION DECREASE FOR SOME COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH THEY
ARE ONE OF UNFPA'S (UN FUND FOR POPULATION ASSISTANCE) BIGGEST
SUPPORTERS, THE DUTCH ARE ALSO ONE OF ITS BIGGEST CRITICS.
END SUMMARY.

1. DUTCH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPENDING ON POPULATION IS
ENTIRELY MULTILATERAL. THERE ARE NO BILATERAL PROGRAMS
FOR POPULATION ASSISTANCE. ALL FUNDS GO TO UNFPA WITH
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PAGE 02 THE HA 01870 060949Z

10 PERCENT EARMARKED FOR TRANSFER TO IPPF (INTERNATIONAL

PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION). THE FOLLOWING TABLE SUMMARIZES DUTCH FUNDING OF POPULATION ASSISTANCE FOR THE YEARS 1973-1976. THERE ARE NO PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE YEARS . (ALL FIGURES IN MILLIONS OF GUILDERS. \$1.00 EQUALS 2.68 GUILDERS.)

YEAR POPULATION TOTAL ODA POPULATION ASSISTANCE AS
A PERCENTAGE OF ODA

	ASSISTANCE		
1973	10.5	1088	0.97
1974	14.5	1286	1.13
1975	17.0	1593	1.07
1976	22.0	2440	0.99

A NEW PROVISION THIS YEAR ALLOWS DEVELOPMENT AID MINISTRY TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO PRIVATE DUTCH ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN POPULATION ASSISTANCE IN LDC'S, BUT THE LEVEL OF SUCH FUNDING IS NOT EXPECTED TO BECOME SIGNIFICANT. FUTURE GROWTH OF POPULATION ASSISTANCE FUNDING IS EXPECTED TO COME AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER ODA.

2. DEVELOPMENT AID MINISTRY CONSIDERS POPULATION CONTROL ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL IF OTHER DEVELOPMENT AID IS TO HAVE ANY REAL MEANING. THE IMPORTANCE PLACED ON POPULATION CONTROL IS NOT REFLECTED IN ITS FUNDING. THE DUTCH URGE NOT ONLY A REDUCTION IN POPULATION GROWTH, BUT, FOR SOME COUNTRIES, AN OUTRIGHT (AND SUBSTANTIAL DECREASE IN POPULATION. THEY ARE EXTREMELY DISSATISFIED WITH LDC PERFORMANCE AND ATTITUDES IN THIS AREA AND HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN CRITICIZING THE LDC'S. DUTCH IDEAS ON POPULATION ASSISTANCE STRESS PROVISION OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES INCLUDING CONTRACEPTIVE SUPPLIES AND STERILIZATION. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS IS GIVEN TO COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES, WHICH ARE THOUGHT TO BE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN MEDICALLY-ORIENTED APPROACH, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS.

3. UNFPA IS A SPECIAL TARGET FOR DUTCH CRITICISM. THE DUTCH HAVE SENT UNFPA A DETAILED CRITIQUE OF THE POLICY DRAFT DUE IN JUNE, BUT THEY DO NOT EXPECT TO BE HEEDDED. DUTCH CRITICISMS INCLUDE THE LACK OF PRIORITIES, THE CONCENTRATION ON MSA'S (MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED) (SOME OF WHICH ARE UNDERPOPULATED) AND THE LACK OF CLARITY IN PROGRAMS, MANY OF WHICH OVERLAP OTHER AGENCIES' ACTIVITIES. IN CONTRAST,

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PAGE 03 THE HA 01870 060949Z

DUTCH ARE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH ACTIVITIES OF IPPF, ESPECIALLY STERILIZATION, DISTRIBUTION OF CONTRACEPTIVES AND OTHER FIELD WORK. THEY FIND IT USEFUL TO HAVE A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION TO IMPLEMENT THE SOMETIMES CONTROVERSIAL ASPECTS OF POPULATION ASSISTANCE.

4. DUTCH POPULATION ASSISTANCE POLICY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION JAN PRONK. E. J.

N. BROUWER AND G. A. EVERTS ARE RESPONSIBLE WORKING-
LEVEL OFFICIALS. DUTCH FEEL THAT EXISTING DONOR COORDINA-
TION IS ADEQUATE AND THAT EFFORTS AT CLOSER COORDINATION
WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE BY PROVOKING LDC'S.
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